

S. J. King

CLARE RURAL DISTRICT

in the

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

ANNUAL REPORT



OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1957



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To the Chairman and Members
of the
Clare Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Report on the Public Health services for the year 1957.

The estimate of the population of the district by the Registrar General indicates that the population remains comparatively static. It will be noted that this year both the Birth and Death Rates show an improvement on previous years and on the national figures. As reported monthly the average age at the time of death is uniformly high.

Few cases of notifiable disease occurred and in the Tuberculosis field the reduction of cases would be greater were it not for known cases moving into the Area.

The new Clare Sewerage works functioned satisfactorily and it is hoped to be possible to make similar comment regarding further works in the not too distant future, as the need for sewerage facilities in various villages in the District is pressing.

I would like to record my thanks to Dr. McCracken, the County Medical Officer, for his help during the year and also to Mr. Allpress and Mr. Smith for their valued advice and assistance. Finally to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and encouragement during the period reviewed.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. P. BARCLAY

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

1. (Figures in brackets throughout the Report relate to the previous year).

Area of the District	49,360 acres
Number of Parishes	24
Rateable Value	£76,700
Sum represented by a Penny rate	£ 310
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books	2,930
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	9,350
Population (1951 Census)	9,413

2. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

(a) Medical Officer of Health who also serves other districts
(Appointed 1st October 1950).

(b) Chief Public Health Inspector:

Mr. H. A. Smith (appointed 1st November 1944) who also
holds the appointment of Engineer and Surveyor.

Additional Public Health Inspectors -

Mr. C. Boulton (appointed 16th February 1953, left the
Council's service 10th June 1957).

Mr. G. W. Maidlow (commenced duties with the Council
16th September 1957).

Mr. E. A. Burgon and Mr. K. Harrison, Veterinary Surgeons,
are appointed for the purpose of meat inspection at The
Great Wrattling Abattoir.

3. VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS:	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate:	(60)71	(46)87	(106)158
Illegitimate	(1) 1	(2) 5	(3) 6
Totals	(61)72	(48)92	(109)164
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)			(11.7)17.5
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (adjusted)			(13.8)21.0
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)			(15.7)16.1
Illegitimate Birth Rate			(2.8%)3.1%
STILL BIRTHS:	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	(1) -	(-) 2	(1) 2
Illegitimate	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Totals	(1) -	(-) 2	(1) 2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)			(9.2)12.0
DEATHS :	Male	Female	Total
	(77) 60	(63) 51	(140) 111
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)			(15.0) 11.9
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted)			(12.7) 10.2
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)			(11.7) 11.5
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion			Nil Nil
INFANT MORTALITY:			

It can be expected that these rates will show considerable variation from year to year as the figures are relatively small.

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	(4) 1	(-) 2	(4) 3
Illegitimate	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Totals	(4) 1	(-) 2	(4) 3

There were no deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

	Total
(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	(36.6) 17.0
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	(37.7) 17.8
(c) All infants England and Wales	(23.8) 23

RATES FOR PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS:

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Adjusted Birth Rates	15.6	15.9	15.7	14.8	13.8	21.0
Adjusted Death Rates	10.8	9.6	9.9	10.4	12.7	10.2

4. CAUSES OF DEATH

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis	(0) 2	(0) 0	(0) 2
Measles	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Whooping Cough	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Diphtheria	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Cancer (all types)	(13) 9	(13) 15	(26) 24
Heart Disease (all forms)	(23) 22	(21) 16	(44) 38
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system	(13) 9	(12) 7	(25) 16
Diabetes	(0) 1	(0) 0	(0) 1
Influenza	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Pneumonia	(1) 1	(4) 3	(5) 4
Bronchitis	(3) 4	(1) 0	(4) 4
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	(0) 1	(0) 0	(0) 1
Accidents (Motor Vehicles)	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Accidents (not Motor Vehicles)	(2) 3	(0) 1	(2) 4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	(21) 2	(12) 5	(33) 7
Suicide	(1) 1	(0) 0	(1) 1
Nephritis	2	1	3
Gastritis Enteritis Diarrhoea..	0	1	1
Ulcer of the Stomach and duodenum	2	0	2
Congenital Malformation	1	2	3
Totals	(77) 60	(63) 51	(140) 111

5. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

The year was happily free from any major epidemic of notifiable disease, in fact only 10% of the population suffered from such disease.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

	Male		Female		Total
Scarlet Fever	(1)	0	(2)	1	(3) 1
Erysipelas	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0) 0
Whooping Cough	(5)	16	(1)	21	(6) 37
Measles	(44)	28	(32)	31	(76) 59
Pneumonia, Acute	(3)	1	(2)	0	(5) 1
Polioomyelitis	(0)	1	(0)	0	(0) 1
Infective Hepatitis	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1) 0
Puerperal Pyrexia	(0)	0	(1)	0	(1) 0
Food Poisoning	(0)	0	(3)	0	(3) 0
Dysentory		1		0	1

6. TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total all Types.
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. of cases on register at commencement of year ,.....	23 (23)	15 (16)	38 (39)	4 (2)	3 (4)	7 (6)	45 (46)
No. of cases added during the year	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)	6 (6)
No. of cases removed during year	7 (2)	2 (2)	9 (4)	0 (0)	0 (2)	0 (2)	9 (6)
No. remaining on register at end of year	18 (23)	14 (15)	32 (38)	6 (4)	4 (3)	10 (7)	42 (45)

7. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47.- Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

Action under this section was necessary in one case only.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY YOUR CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:-

A. WATER SUPPLIES.

The Council's main sources of supply are at Great Wratting and Depden.

Water is pumped from duplicate boreholes at Great Wratting to an underground storage reservoir near Hundon Hall which supplies 19 of the parishes in the area, and also the Stradishall R.A.F. Station. Analysis shows the water to be wholesome and fit for drinking. It is chlorinated at the source. Hardness is given as 401 parts per million.

Five parishes in the North of the area are supplied from the Depden Tower with water pumped from the Thingoe R.D.C. reservoir in the adjoining parish of Rede. This water is shown on analysis to be wholesome and fit for drinking purposes and with a hardness of 272 parts per million.

Bulk supplies are given to Mildenhall, Thingoe and Haverhill Councils and a supply to 7 houses in the Halstead Rural area.

A supply is received from Haverhill U.D.C. for the Meldham Bridge area of Withersfield parish for a population of about 40, and about 15 people in the Stansfield and Hawkedon parishes receive a direct supply from the mains of Melford R.D.C. which pass through those parishes.

It is estimated that about 86 per cent of the population in your area have a piped water supply.

B. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The only major sewerage scheme in the area was completed at Clare in 1956.

A scheme for Cavendish is in progress and expected to be completed at the end of 1958. The joint sewage disposal works for both parishes being situated East of Clare. They are functioning satisfactorily, as evidenced by samples of sewage effluent taken frequently throughout the year. The works and pumping stations are being well maintained.

It is noted that the Council are discussing the possibility of installing further village sewerage schemes, and it is hoped that at least one further Village may have this amenity in 1959.

In general, the discharge of untreated sewage into ditches and other watercourses, has continued to give rise to nuisances, particularly in the built-up Village areas, and it is extremely difficult if not impossible, to abate such nuisances in the absence of sewers and disposal works.

C. PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Household bin refuse is collected from about 90% of the houses in your area, fortnightly, in 14 parishes, and once per month in the remaining part of the area.

Collection is done by two full time employees and one vehicle.

Pail closets are also collected in this vehicle in Clare and Cavendish each fortnight. About 20 closet vaults in Clare are cleared by contract quarterly.

The numbers of pail closets and vaults are gradually being reduced as they are converted into water closets.

Cesspools on Council House sites throughout the area are cleaned out under Contract each quarter.

Refuse tips are in use at Kedington, Denston and Wickhambrook and rodent control thereon is carried out by your own staff.

Collection of waste paper is done at the time of bin collection, and paper sold unsorted in bulk.

D. INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made by the Department during the year under various Acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within the area.

Housing (Defects and Nuisances)	71
Housing Acts	131
Drainage installation and Building Byelaws	63
Housing maintenance	272
Sewage Disposal	44
Factory Acts	10
Factory Outworkers	12
Infectious Diseases	8
Verminous Premises	7
Refuse Collection and Disposal	55
Petroleum Acts	29
Caravans	24
Rodent Control	192
Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards (Meat)	526
Food inspection	7
Food Hygiene	58
Milk and Dairies	6
Water Supply	50
Other Matters	49

E. PROCEDURE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936.

Housing Complaints investigated (defects)	33
Informal Notices sent to Owners	14
Complaints abated	17
Statutory Notices served	2
Statutory Notices complied with	2
Prosecutions	3
Housing improvements carried out as a result of informal action:-	
Internal and External improvements	12
Houses disinfected after vermin	5
Premises cleared of rats and mice	53

F. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply:

There are 7 Supplementary licences in force authorising the sale in your area of Pasteurised, Sterilised and T.T.milk, by three dealers. Each dealer holding a principal licence in adjoining areas.

Food Premises in the area:

General Grocers	35
Butchers Shops	5
Greengrocers	1
Fish Shops	1
Bakers	4
Cafes	4
Public Houses	44

Ice Cream:

No ice cream is manufactured in the area.

The following premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream.

General Stores and Shops	17
Bakers	2
Public Houses	2

Food Hygiene Regulations:

Some general improvement has taken place during the year particularly with regard to cleanliness in food premises, as a result of improvements and modernisation, including the use of modern hygienic counter and storage tray tops etc.

Requests for installation of wash basins have met with some success, but in some food premises installation of such necessities are temporarily awaiting general improvements to the property - including drainage facilities.

Offensive Trades:

There is one blood drying and gut scraping establishment licensed at the Blunts Hall Abattoir.

Licensed Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards:

There are 6 licensed slaughterhouses and two knackers yards in the area.

The following animals (not for human consumption) were received at the Knackers Yards. Humane methods of slaughtering are used.

Cattle 150
Horses 37
Sheep 95
Pigs 38

Licensed Slaughtermen.

There are 33 licensed slaughtermen residing in the area.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Cattle	Sheep and Lanbs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	91	71	132,984	37
Number inspected	91	71	132,984	
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:				
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	2	163	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	2	Not known	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci....	2.7	2.8	67,226	
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	59	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	Nil	Not known	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.7	Nil	194,238 lbs.	
Cysticercosis:				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	

Not for human consumption

The bulk of rejected meat is purchased by a contract (outside your area) and processed into animal food, fertilisers, glues, greases etc.

Section G.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Acts 1937 & 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1 - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	2	-	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	31	12	-	-	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total		33	14	Nil	Nil	

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
(1)	(2)						
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient	9	1	1	-	-	-	9
Total		1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	

PART VIII of the Act

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)
Making of Wearing Apparel	13	31
Box Making etc.	34	47
Total		78

G. P. BARCLAY, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H

Medical Officer of Health

PART VIII of the Act

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

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Making of Wearing Apparel	13	31
Box Making etc.	34	47
Total		78

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